

[54] METHOD OF INHIBITING NITRIC OXIDE SYNTHASE**[76] Inventor: Marion Man-Ying Chan**, 58 Mitchell Ave., Piscataway, N.J. 08854**[21] Appl. No.: 09/024,005****[22] Filed: Feb. 14, 1998****[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A61K 31/35****[52] U.S. Cl. 514/456****[58] Field of Search 514/456****[56] References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Primary Examiner—Theodore J. Criares**[57] ABSTRACT**

This invention is directed to a pharmacologically acceptable composition for inhibiting nitric oxide synthase in a mammal, which include catechin derivatives and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The invention also concerns a method of inhibiting nitric oxide synthase, and treating various conditions where there is an advantage in inhibiting nitric oxide biosynthesis. The method includes the step of administering to a mammal a catechin derivative, such as epigallocatechin-3-gallate or a related polyphenol, in pure form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The novel inhibitors inhibit nitric oxide synthase at the level of gene expression and enzyme activity.

10 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets